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NEWS BRIEFS

Cuban officials refuse to extradite Assata Shakur

HAVANA, Cuba—Assata Shakur is considered a political refugee and a civil rights activist by the Cuban government, and will not be extradited to the United States.

Cuban officials stated that they refused to turn over Shakur, who, when she was known as Joanne Chesimard, was one of the best-known black revolutionaries of the 1970s. A member of the Black Liberation Army, she was convicted of the murder of a state trooper in 1973. Onar Mendoza, a spokesman at the International Press Center in Havana said, "There could not be an extradition treaty because there is not an extradition treaty between the United States and Cuba."

'A Team' actor Mr. T battles cancer

HOLLYWOOD, Calif.—Mr. T, best known for his tough, gruff pop style in the television series "The A Team" and the movie Rocky III, is battling a form of lymphoma and currently receiving daily radiation treatments.

The actor, whose real name is Lawrence Tero, was interviewed for the television show "Entertainment Tonight." He said the hardest part of having cancer was telling his mom. "I try to be upbeat," he said in the television interview. "I want them to be uplifted. This is what gives me the strength to go to the hospital."

Officer charged with child endangerment

HACKENSACK (AP)—A juvenile detention officer was charged Wednesday with child endangerment for allegedly biting and scratching a 15-year-old boy at the Bergen County Juvenile Detention Center.

Gina Lampley, 34, of Hackensack was suspended indefinitely from her job at the Paramus center, Bergen County Prosecutor William H. Schmidt said.

Lampley bit and scratched the 15-year-old, a resident at the center, on April 16, Schmidt said.

She has a court appearance scheduled for Friday in Hackensack municipal court.

City receives more funding for municipal budget

NEWARK—The City of Newark recently received a \$179 million check from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The payment represents a percentage of gross receipts which is given yearly to the city under the terms of a contract between Newark and the bi-state agency.

In receiving the payment, Mayor Sharpe James said the money will be used to reduce taxes and provide for hiring 300 additional police officers in the 1998 municipal budget. "This is the most revenue the City ever had received from the Port Authority, and it is the result of skillful negotiating by my administration to work out a lease agreement that will be most beneficial to the City of Newark," he said.

New building houses women's program

TRENTON—Governor Whitman recently dedicated a new building for the women's studies program at Douglass College.

The \$2.5 million Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building on Rutgers' New Brunswick Campus was funded through public and private donations.

"Douglass College is the largest college for women in the country," the Governor said. "And the Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building will add significantly to Douglass' reputation as the nation's premier college for women's studies."

By G.E. Mattox

Over 700 of the most community active and aware of New Jersey met at the Newark Airport Marriott for an evening of recognition and networking at the Third Annual City News 100 Most Influential Awards Celebration.

The awards celebration, which honored individuals making significant contributions to the progress of black people and to New Jersey's urban communities, was an opportunity for these individuals and their supporters to gather together and exchange opinions and ideas.

"New Jersey is blessed with many outstanding individuals, organizations and corporations that are working to strengthen their individual communities," said Dr. Henry C. Johnson, Publisher, City News Publishing Company. "The City News 100 Most Influential recognizes these New Jerseyans, some highly visible powerbrokers and others who work quietly in the background, who are getting things done."

In speaking to many of the awardees, the overall feeling at being cited for this recognition was a mixture of pride and humility. One of the Special Honorees, Paula Madison, expressed

and president and New Director, NBCA television, said, "It is an honor because I just think of myself as a hard-working person doing the best that I can. It's very nice to have someone stop and recognize your achievements. As I go through my day I don't think of anything I've done as an

The overall feeling at being cited for this recognition was a mixture of pride and awe.

achievement, I just try to do the best that I can with what God gave me. It is an honor to have someone say, 'You know what, we think you're doing a great job.'"

Another honoree, Dr. Ruthann Grey, formerly Sr. vice-president for Hecchi Martin Rossell said she wanted to make a difference in her community.

"I have a commitment that is very strong in terms of volunteering, and I think I have honored that commitment in terms of diligence and persistence."

Dr. Grey has been instrumental in securing a number of computers for a Plainfield elementary school and corporate support in teacher training.

Noting that this is the largest assemblage yet for this event, Dr. Johnson is pleased with the recognition the celebration has received from the corporate and public sectors. "I am excited about the turnout, including the positive energy, enthusiasm and excitement generated by the individuals gathering in together. With this year's ceremony, barely over, he wants to build on its success. "As we approach the millennium, we are looking at certain challenges and more strongly broadcast this positive reinforcement and commitment to the community."

Denzel Washington puts family first

By Cynthia L. Webb
Associated Press Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP)—Denzel Washington strides into a hotel suite clad in casual black. The only contrast is a pair of white sneakers thrown on after a quick workout in the gym.

Washington has just returned from boxing, a sport he enjoys. "I'm boxing with a real trainer. I mean the real deal. We spar and do everything," he says. "The mental aspect of it makes you learn so much more."

Washington, 42, springs from the sofa after answering a few questions about his new movie, "He Got Game," and throws a few punches. He laughs, possibly at his own spontaneity, and sits down again.

He grew up playing pickup basketball games in the projects of Mount Vernon, New York, and his outlook on athletics defines his work as an actor. Like boxing, most of acting is a mental game. It's not just how hard you punch, but the preparation it takes to get there.

Washington learned to play the trumpet eight years ago for his role in Spike Lee's "Mo' Better Blues." He added weight to his usual 195 pounds (90 kilograms) to play an alcoholic soldier in "Courage Under Fire." For Lee's "He Got Game," which opened Friday, Washington let his normally close-cropped hair grow long.

And boxing? Sure, it's a fitness thing, but he's also preparing to play the Ruben "Hurricane" Carter, the boxer who spent 20 years in prison for a murder conviction that was eventually overturned.

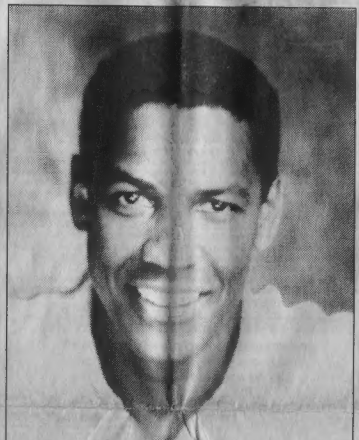
Washington stars as Jake Shuttlesworth in "He Got Game," a movie about a father, his son and basketball.

Jake's son, Jesus (played by the NBA's Ray Allen), is the nation's top high school basketball player. He's asked whether to play college basketball or head straight to the pros.

Jake is serving time in prison for murdering his wife, but he gains a temporary release from the governor—with one catch: He can earn early parole if he persuades Jesus to pick the "G" in his name.

"Denzel's a great artist," Lee says of Washington, who has been in just five of Lee's films, including "Malcolm X," for which he received an Academy Award nomination.

The movie is ostensibly about the basketball, yet its main focus is on the strained relationship between



Denzel Washington is currently starring in "He Got Game."

Jake and Jesus. Before he is sent to prison, Jake is a demanding father—pushing and taunting his son, all for basketball's sake.

While Jake's family is far different than Washington's, the role still caused him to reflect on his own fatherhood.

"With all the father-son stuff, I actually got a little misty," said Washington, who has four children.

"I'm very involved," he says of parenting. He has coached basketball and football and makes Los Angeles his home so his kids can be where he works.

He is a far different approach from what Washington experienced growing up. "My father wasn't into athletics. He was a minister. We had no days off in his house."

He offers little more when asked about his relationship with his father. His parents divorced when Washington was 14.

Washington talks with a cadence in his voice, and listens with his hand pressed against his temple, his brown eyes appearing rich with memories. Yet, while seemingly open, he is selective in providing

details on his life. He will tell you he has four children, "teen-agers down to seven years old" but does not give names or exact ages. He says he and his wife, Pauletta Pearson, are building a new home but won't reveal where.

And he speaks of being married for 15 years this June but pretends not to remember the date.

"I think I'm normal more so than overly private," says Washington, who won an Oscar in 1990 for his supporting role as a runaway slave turned union soldier in "Glory." He also was nominated for "City of Angels" in 1998.

"I'm just trying to raise kids and do what you are supposed to do. I would not want to be considered 20 years from now the most whatever as an actor—like the scariest man alive—and then have the kids be screwed up."

"I wasn't raised like that. My father wasn't patted like that. So we keep it basic and drive them to school, feed them and do whatever else you should do as a parent."

SEE DENZEL PAGE 10

Prosecutor's jibes pull spectators into trial

By Jim Fitzgerald
Associated Press Writer

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—A federal prosecutor said today that Texas executives accused of obstructing justice provided their own words—on secret tapes—in an alleged plot to destroy evidence of race discrimination.

Prosecutor Stanley Oskus pointed out dozens of comments he said showed they were plotting a cover story for failing to turn over documents that have helped black employees who were suing Texaco.

One comment—"Shred them and get rid of them"—gives you a crystal clear view of what's going on, Oskus told the jury in his summation.

Retired Texaco treasurer Robert Ulrich, 64, and a former finance executive, Richard Landwell, 56, are charged with scheming to hide and destroy evidence in the discrimination case. They face 10 years in prison if convicted.

The tapes Landwell made secretly and later turned over to the plaintiffs embarrassed Texaco into a \$176 million settlement in 1996.

"The defendants' own words are the very best proof of what they intended—what they meant when they set upon the offices of Texaco and dis-

posed shredding and getting rid of documents," Oskus said.

On Tuesday, the last day of testimony, federal prosecutor Elliott Jacobs said Ulrich to acknowledge that as a "loyal Texaco employee" and a shareholder he wanted the black employees to lose their case.

He said he didn't take the case personally, but Jacobs referred the jury to a passage in the transcript when Ulrich said the plaintiffs "are both going to be held accountable" and to another excerpt that the prosecution described as a threat to "freeze out" one of the plaintiffs.

In that passage, Ulrich said, "If we put her in there and gave her nothing and let her play solitaire, she'd be out of it."

"That's not the kind of language you use when you go to Sunday Mass, is it?" Jacobs asked.

He was referring to the earlier testimony of a character witness, a non-signer who said he saw Ulrich every Sunday at church. But Jacobs' remark stirred outrage in some of Ulrich's friends and relatives, who packed the gallery behind the defense table. Some gaped and some loudly said, "Come on!"

The prosecutor indicted the spectators again at the end of the cross-examination.

Ulrich, who claimed he never purposely hid anything from the lawyers, said that if he could do it all over he would turn in everything.

"I wish we never had this case," he said.

"I'm sure you do, Mr. Ulrich," Jacobs said. "Nothing further."

Several people hissed from the gallery.

"The last exchange of the trial prompted the loudest uproar from the spectators."

After the cross-examination, defense lawyers got Ulrich to say that he never destroyed any documents, though the tapes capture him saying, "Shred 'em and get rid of 'em," and "We're going to purge the s— out of these books."

Ulrich insisted that such comments were simply his suggestions about how such documents should be handled in the future, not his response to the plaintiffs' request for documents relevant to the case.

In his final question, referring to briefing books for meetings at which personnel matters were discussed, Jacobs said, "The briefing books were never produced, were they, Mr. Ulrich?"

To which Ulrich said, "They were never asked for."

Lawyer says Simpson makes 'creeping confession'

By Linda Deutsch
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The lawyer who won a civil wrongful death suit against O.J. Simpson said Tuesday he believes the man accused of two murders is making a "creeping confession" in his public appearances.

Simpson, responding to Daniel Petre's new assertions for the first time, called the claim "totally ridiculous" and said that lawyer is trying to make news to sell his book.

Petre said that if Simpson believed a confession would win him public acceptance he would admit to

the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

"I don't think he will ever crack. He's a strong individual and a survivor," said Petre, who represented the Goldman family. "But public acceptance is what he's after."

"That's totally ridiculous," said Simpson, who insisted no such thought has ever entered his mind.

"I don't do it so I've never thought about confessing," Simpson said.

He noted that Fred Goldman, father of Ron, had offered to forgive the \$33.5 million judgment he won if Simpson would confess, and he had refused the offer.

Jersey City sues National Crime Insurance Bureau for defamation

JERSEY CITY—The City of Jersey City today sued the National Crime Insurance Bureau (NCIB) for defamation, citing a recent report the Bureau issued erroneously listing Jersey City as the "car theft capital" of the nation.

Mayor Bret Schundler angrily declared, "The recently released NCIB report on car thefts in New Jersey is misleading at best. We demand that the NCIB report crime statistics by city and not manufacture crime statistics by arbitrary statistical areas."

The NCIB reported erroneously that in 1996 Jersey City led the nation in auto thefts. This is categorically untrue. Just to cite one comparison, the auto-theft rate in neighboring Newark in 1996 was 30 thefts per 1,000 residents, while Jersey City's rate was half that with 15 thefts per 1,000 residents. In addition, car thefts have declined 43 percent in Jersey City since 1993.

The problem with the NCIB statistics is that they do not make conclusions based on the statistical experience of particular cities, but rather upon arbitrary "metropolitan statistical areas" that are meaningless for comparing one city to another.

For the NCIB report, the Jersey City metropolitan statistical area does not include the city of Jersey City or Hudson County, a heavily urbanized area. In contrast, the Newark metropolitan statistical area does not mean Newark—it means all of Northwest New Jersey, including rural counties like Sussex and Warren. If the study wants to give the Jersey City metropolitan statistical area a higher crime rate than Newark, it can subtract low crime rural areas from the Jersey City metropolitan area, and assign them to the Newark metropolitan area. If it wants to give Jersey City a lower crime rate than Newark, it can assign low crime rural areas to the Jersey City metropolitan area and subtract them from Newark.

and gives guided tours of Black Panther sites. "It was the first chief of staff of the Black Panther Party, founded in Oakland in 1966 by Newton and Bobby Seale."

He met Cleaver around 1968 and was instantly taken with his mastery of the language.

"I remember Eldridge using statistics like, 'Writers, black writers especially, shouldn't write if they can't extract blood from the white man's alphabet,'" said Hilliard.

Hilliard's brother, Roosevelt, who served as Cleaver's assistant, recalled that community activists and people in need would come "knocking on the door all night." Party members lived in their offices, making them conveniently accessible if not well-served, he said.

Before joining the Black Panthers, Cleaver had served nine years in prison for assault with intent to kill.

It was there he wrote the controversial book "Soul on Ice," that brought him fame. The book brooded over the civil rights rage of white women as "an insurrectionary act."

Controversy was a constant in Cleaver's life.

In the late 1960s, he was the center of protest at the University of California, Berkeley. After one rally on Sunday, April 6, 1968, Cleaver and two police officers were wounded.

Cleaver was arrested after the shootout, but jumped bail and fled to Mexico.

Cleaver wrote "Soul on Ice," a collection of poems and essays, in 1968.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—A young Black Panther, David Hilliard was bowled over the first time he was confronted with the power and passion of Eldridge Cleaver.

"I thought that Eldridge was the reincarnation of Malcolm X. I have never heard such power, such eloquence," he said.

A lot has happened since those days of fire—Cleaver, who died Friday, packed careers as convict, revolutionary, evangelist, Republican, drug addict, and, most recently, environmentalist, into his 62 years.

But Hilliard remembers Cleaver best the way he saw him first—a man with the power to weave words into a fabric that bound white leftists and black radicals together.

"That is one of his greatest contributions in terms of our politics," Hilliard said.

Hilliard, who now works with the Dr. Harry P. Newton Foundation

for the study of the Black Panther Party, said that Cleaver was a charismatic, sometimes a chameleon and sometimes a chameleon.

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Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

JERSEY CITY—The Dept. of Continuing Education of Hudson County Community College offers "Intermediate MS Word '97 Using Windows '95" from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. 201-714-2107.

MIDDLETOWN—In order to meet the growing demand for composting programs and supplies, Monmouth County is once again offering composting workshops to local residents. For further information, call 732-431-7460.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

ATLANTIC CITY—The Property Tax Commission will hold a public hearing from 7 to 9 p.m. at the New Atlantic City Convention Center, Room 401. 609-777-2600.

NEW YORK—New York University's School of Continuing Education will hold a free insider's look at the field of "Real Estate" from 5:45 to 7 p.m. at the NYU's Midtown Center, 4th Fl. 212-998-7080.

TRENTON—Enter the 1998 NJ Historic Preservation Photography for details, call 609-777-4473. Deadline for entries is July 31st.

JERSEY CITY—The Dept. of Continuing Education of Hudson County Community College offers "Algebra and Geometry" from 6:30 to 9 p.m. 201-714-2107.

JERSEY CITY—The Dept. of Continuing Education of Hudson County Community College offers "Deal More Effectively with Others" from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. 201-714-2107.

FRIDAY, MAY 15

LIVINGSTON—Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey invites you to test your skills in basketball by participating in their First Annual Wheelchair Basketball "Throw for All" in the Livingston High School Gymnasium. 973-674-1150, ext. 15.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

NEW YORK—A Talk/My Father's Son? Paul Robeson's Early Years. Professor P. Staring Stucky, African-American Studies scholar, is the author of many articles about Paul Robeson including the 1988 introduction to Here I Stand, Robeson's autobiography. Professor Stucky discusses Robeson's formative years as a key to the rest of his life, addressing issues of athletics, scholarship, human rights and culture and the intellectual model provided by Robeson's father.

WATCHING—As part of a year-long

Send events to: CN Community Calendar, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, N.J. 07060 or FAX to: 908-753-1035

125th Anniversary celebration, the Sisters of Mercy of the Regional Community of New Jersey will hold a Flea Market to benefit the homeless from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 908-754-4555.

EAST ORANGE—A Chinese Auction/Tricky Toy will be held 2 p.m. at the Clifford J. Scott High School Parent Teacher Association. 973-972-8722.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

CALDWELL—Graduation Weekend will culminate with author and Hearst Corp. Vice President Robert Danzig's Commencement speech at the College's 56th Commencement ceremony. 973-228-4424, ext. 209.

MONDAY, MAY 18

WESTFIELD—Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County is offering a free seminar on "House Plans and Propagation" at 7:30 p.m. at the Westfield Administration Bldg. 908-654-9554.

SHORT HILLS—The Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry invites you to join them at the Annual MEM Golf Tournament at the East Orange Golf Course. 973-481-7383.

BRIDGEWATER—The Resource Center for Women and Their Families will offer a custom built children's playhouse at Bridgewater Commons at 6 p.m. 908-359-0003.

LIVINGSTON—The 14th Annual Herman Yula Schwartz and Lagonarino, PA Golf Outing and Tournament will be held at the Cedar Hill Country Club. 973-503-1900.

TUESDAY, MAY 19

NEW YORK—NMSDC Annual Awards Dinner will be held the N.Y. Hilton Hotel and Towers. 212-944-2430.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

FAR HILLS—The Columbia Hospital Foundation will hold its third annual golf outing at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club. 973-286-1455.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

PLAINFIELD—Donald Williams' 13th Annual Antique and Custom Car Show will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on West Front Street. Don't miss it! 908-752-2431

NEW YORK—The Whitney Museum presents "Unknown Terrain," the first major New York exhibition of Andrew Wyeth's work. For more info, call 212-570-3633.

Political powerhouses meet at breakfast



NEWARK—From left, East Orange Mayor Robert Bowser, Newark Mayor Sharpe James, Essex County Executive Joseph A. Sirchia, Hudson County Mayor and State Senator Garry Fumari and Orange Mayor Mims Hackett stood together at a recent Democratic Party Unity Breakfast.

Linden resident receives award from Newark fire fighters



NEWARK—Annie C. Baile, in photo seated third from left, a Registered Nurse from UNMCJ University Hospital, received an award of commendation from the Newark Fire Department and the Newark Fire Officer's Union, for her heroic actions in saving the life of her patient. She is shown seated with fellow heroic hospital staff Cheryl Isles, RN, Caroline Vincent, LPN, Linda Alfia, and members of the Newark Fire Department. On Saturday, February 14, Ms. Baile arrived at the hospital to work the night shift. When a fire alarm sounded at 12:51 a.m., she ran to locate the fire. It was then, that she smelled smoke and heard cries for help coming from her patient's room. Without regard to her own safety, Ms. Baile ran into the burning room, threw a blanket over the patient and carried her to safety. The 31-year-old patient, who was on oxygen, had been smoking in bed. Twenty unharmed patients were safely evacuated from the medical nursing unit to other areas within the hospital. The Newark Fire Department arrived quickly on the scene and extinguished the fire.

City News is glad to highlight our community people every week. Send your photos and information to: City News People, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, N.J. 07060.

Open House at JCSC



JERSEY CITY—Dr. Carlos Hernandez, left, president of Jersey City State College, greeted Angela Freeman, center, of Plainfield and Karen MacMillan of Piscataway, both registered nurses who are considering the College's Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing Program, at JCSC's Spring Open House. The day-long event featured campus tours, information on undergraduate and graduate academic programs, student support services, activities, a multi-media presentation, and a performance of selections from the JCSC production of "Into the Woods."

James accepts safe neighborhood grant from HUD



NEWARK—Mayor Sharpe James and Essex County Freeholder Blonnie Watson, in photo at far right, recently accepted a quarter million dollar Safe Neighborhood Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

"This \$250,000 will help our citizens make our neighborhoods safer through increased police presence, neighborhood clean-up programs, committee crime watch programs, supervised and structured youth activities, anti-litter and anti-graffiti campaigns, and social service referrals for those in need of assistance," Mayor James said. The check was presented by Diane Johnson of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in conjunction with "National Youth Service Day." Students and members of the Newark SNAP (Safe Neighborhood Action Program) Committee cleaned up a 13-block area bounded by Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Court Street, Prince Street, and Muhammad Ali Avenue.

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1100 West Main Street
1000 West Main Street
LIVINGSTON:
600 East Livingston Avenue
600 East Livingston Avenue
LONG BRANCH:
189 Broadway

MAISON:
15 Wilbury Place
MILLBURN:
200 Milburn Avenue
NAVESINK:
Highway 26 and Valley Road
PLAINFIELD:
100 West Main Street
ROCKY HILLS:
100 West Main Street
SCOTT PLANE:
437 Park Avenue

SPRINGFIELD:
173 Main Street
Bridgewater Shopping Center
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Highway 1 and Valley Road
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24 Foster Street, Bay Plaza
2000 Bay Plaza
UNION:
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Black people respond to targeted marketing campaigns

According to a report by Packaged Facts, black people are highly receptive to financial services that are marketed to them. Example: Deluxe Corporation, by creating a check series commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, exceeded their market projections by 15%.

*Packaged Facts is a product of FIND/SVP Research Publications Group

2 great ways to reach the African-American Business & Professional Community



Minority Business Journal

The *Minority Business Journal* is a monthly publication focusing on minority and women business enterprise in New Jersey and New York City. *MBJ* regularly features the accomplishments of minority and women businesses, information concerning maintaining and expanding business, opportunities available for minority entrepreneurs, a calendar of events, editorial and commentary - issues facing minority businesses. *MBJ* offers an excellent forum for classified and display advertising and special business and professional card directories. *MBJ* provides an important communication link in the information network vital to the growth and economic development of minority communities.

#1

Minority Business-to-Business Directory

The *Minority Business-to-Business Directory* is a directory of minority- and woman-owned businesses and companies committed to doing business with minorities. The *Directory* networks minority businesses, identifies minority and women businesses with whom public and private sector businesses and agencies can contract for products and services, and exposes a growing force of minority businesses to the general consumer. The *Directory* features listings and advertising as well as provides a resource guide for minority and women entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs to help facilitate starting and maintaining a business. The *Minority Business-to-Business Directory* includes listings from public and private sector businesses and agencies, minority and woman-owned business and small businesses. A delineation of ownership is provided with each listing. The *Minority Business-to-Business Directory* is a tool for the growth and expansion of minority and women entrepreneurs and economic development in the African-American community.



Call (908) 754-3400 for more information

Minority Business Journal & Minority Business to Business Directory opens up a whole new world of possibility

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Michael Brown takes trip to South Africa for Ronald H. Brown Foundation

WASHINGTON—Michael Brown, son of the late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, and president and CEO of the Ronald H. Brown Foundation, will travel to the Republic of South Africa May 12-19 as a guest of the consortium of South African Universities.

Brown's visit is expected to culminate in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ronald H. Brown Foundation and the Ronald H. Brown Foundation Center in Johannesburg.

"Following the success of the President's tour of Africa, the Ronald H. Brown Foundation views this trip as crucial to the establishment of critical ties between the business community in South Africa," said Brown.

Record number of African-American Republican candidates in Georgia

WASHINGTON—Republican National Committee Co-Chairman Pat Harrison hailed the Georgia State Republican Party's announcement that a record number of 21 African-Americans have qualified as candidates for office in the 1998 election cycle as evidence of the GOP and its task force of the 1990s and its new majority council's success in broadening the base of the party.

Harrison called the announcement the beginning of the next Republican wave that will sweep across the country, "noting that continuing Republican efforts to return education resources and decisions to parents and communities, lower taxes, strengthen retirement security and foster a drug-free Georgia are resonating in every community across the country."

"Speaker Newt Gingrich and Majority Leader Trent Lott deserve enormous credit for keeping the debate on our country's future focused in a positive and productive direction," Harrison said.

Chaperones say Black students denied service at Denny's

BALTIMORE (AP)—Denny's restaurant chain, four years after settling a racial discrimination lawsuit for \$46 million, was again being sued by a group of black sixth-grade students and their chaperones who said they were denied service at a Florida restaurant.

The group, on a trip to Disney World from Baltimore, entered a Denny's restaurant in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. recently and were not greeted or seated, officials at Ashburton Elementary-Middle School said.

The incident will be investigated, said Ray Hood-Phillips, chief diversity officer for Spartanburg, S.C.-based Denny's. The post was created following the 1994 settlement.

"If we find that discrimination has occurred, it doesn't matter if it's a company store or a franchise unit, we take swift action," Ms. Hood-Phillips said.

NY State blocks funds for Apollo Theater over financing questions

NEW YORK — As a result of accusations of anovary bookkeeping and missing revenue at the famed Apollo Theater, NY State and City officials have threatened to cancel the Apollo Theater Foundation's theater share and dissolve its board. The threats will become reality unless the theater provides its annual financial statements from 1993 through 1997.

To date, State officials have held up \$400,000 in loans and grants until questions are answered about the foundation's use of federal and state aid. Members of the Apollo Theater Foundation are questioning why it has received only about \$250,000 over five years from production and syndication of the popular TV show.

911 tapes of author Gayl Jones show distraught woman

LEXINGTON, KY. (AP)—A 911 call of acclaimed writer Gayl Jones speaking with a dispatcher before police stormed her house shows she pleaded with the dispatcher to "kill someone who knows us."

Ms. Jones and her husband, Bob Higgins, barricaded themselves inside the house Feb. 20 as police tried to serve Higgins with a 15-year-old warrant from Michigan. Higgins finally let his threat when police rushed into the house, and authorities took Ms. Jones to a state mental hospital.

After reading the 11 transcript, a Lexington psychologist said the decision to intervene and seek mental health treatment for her rising literary star was not only "as distraught as she was I don't think it was anything else they could do," said psychologist Marilyn Clark.

Merriam-Webster resists removal of racial slurs

By Trudy Tynan
Associated Press Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Resisting pressure to sanitize its dictionary, publisher Merriam-Webster has agreed to flag the entries for some 200 racial slurs and other obscenities to warn that the words are offensive.

"A dictionary is a scholarly resource, not a political tool," Deborah Burns, marketing director for Merriam-Webster, said recently. "As long as the word is in use it is our responsibility as dictionary publishers to put the word into the dictionary."

Editors at the Springfield-based publisher said they would place a notation in italics before about 200 of

the 160,000 words in the 1999 Collegiate Dictionary which indicates the words are used as ethnic, religious or sexual slurs.

The definitions, however, will not be rewritten.

"They didn't change anything. They just switched things around," said Delphine Abraham of Ypsilanti, Mich., who vowed to continue pressing ahead with a petition drive to have dictionary publishers redefine the word "nigger."

"Black people shouldn't be labeled niggers any more than white people should be called honkies or Jews called kikes," she said, referring to the published definitions of other slurs. "It promotes bigotry and racism."

In response to hundreds of similar complaints, Merriam-Webster has set up a task force to consider such offensive definitions and whether to change the practice of listing definitions historically, with the oldest, and often the most objectionable, uses coming first.

But the company never considered the total removal of offensive and derogatory words, including "nigger," "queer," "redneck" and "white trash," from its adult dictionaries, Ms. Burns said.

Under the new format, a notation will direct readers to the word's usage paragraphs, which in the case of "nigger" describes the word as "perhaps

the most offensive and inflammatory racial slur in English."

For example, after noting that it is usually offensive, Merriam-Webster will continue to list the first, and earliest, use of "nigger," which came into American writing around 1700, as "a black person."

Ms. Abraham wants the publishers to drop references to the targeted group from definition of such slurs. She said she had collected more than 10,000 signatures.

However, Ms. Burns said Merriam-Webster cannot do more than "make very, very clear that these words are considered offensive and people should be careful if they choose to use them."

Cuomo and Cleaver form pack between HUD and NCBM

NEW ORLEANS — Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo and National Conference of Black Mayors President Emanuel Cleaver signed a partnership agreement pledging HUD and NCBM to work together on a broad range of economic development and housing initiatives to benefit America's cities.

The agreement, signed at NCBM's 24th annual convention in New Orleans, includes provisions that HUD will provide up to \$200,000 in technical assistance services to help NCBM and member mayors benefit from participation in the federal government's programs.

"Members of the National Conference of Black Mayors are playing an important role in revitalizing America's communities," Cuomo said. "I came to New Orleans because I wanted to see NCBM members personally that your hard work and your dedication are making life better for millions of Americans."

"HUD and the National Conference of Black Mayors will work together as partners to reverse decades of decline in our cities," said Cleaver, who is Mayor of Kansas City, MO.

"Working together, we can help create more affordable housing and homeownership, we can attract more new businesses and jobs to our cities, we can reduce housing discrimination, and we can bring economic prosperity to all parts of America."

Andrew Cuomo, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, encouraged members of the National Conference of Black Mayors to apply for additional funding through HUD's Super NOFA (notice of funding availability)—a funding vehicle for organizations and agencies to apply for more than \$3 billion in grants for a variety of programs. With him in photo from left, is New Orleans mayor Marc Morial and Conference president Emanuel Cleaver, Mayor of Kansas City, Mo.



Students petition to wear African cloth to graduation

ARVADA, Colo. (AP)—Four African-American students at Arvada High School are relying on a 1969 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in their fight to wear wraps of Ghanaian Kente cloth with their robes on graduation day.

In the ruling, the court said students and teachers do not shed their "constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the school house gate."

"I would hope that the school authorities would decide to just permit this without it having to be resolved by lawyers," said Mark Silverstein of the American Civil Liberties Union, which is backing the students.

Attorneys for the school district are filing a free speech lawsuit, said district spokeswoman Kay Frick.

Kabuki Ocansey, 18, whose parents were born in Ghana, had her father and the Kente cloth hand-woven with the words "Arvada High School Class of 1998." In Ghana, the multicolored cloth is worn by anyone on special occasions.

"This signifies the pride we have in our heritage and culture," Ocansey said. Other graduates should be able to celebrate their heritage as long as it is done in a respectful way, she said.

Arvada requires students to sign a contract saying they will wear the standard-issue cap and gown. The contract stems from disruptions at past graduations and the community's desire for a more dignified ceremony, Jefferson County Supervisor Ron Horn said.

GOP candidate contrite about racial notes

DALLAS (AP)—A Republican appeals court nominee made racial comments to his bailiff, according to handwritten notes pulled from a wastebasket and kept more than 10 years by a critic of the judge.

State District Judge Mike Keasler of Dallas wrote in one note a lawyer "better get rid of those blacks" as potential jurors. He complained that a black prosecutor said "acted" instead of "asked."

In another note, he referred to someone as "the national lecherd of Mexico."

Keasler, who is running for the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, told The Dallas Morning News that the notes were his.

"I have no excuse for these notes. There can be none, I apologize," Keasler said.

"I am not a racist," Keasler reportedly told the newspaper when he was shown copies of the notes in his office. He said he has treated all people in his courtroom equally.

Keasler declined to make any further comment when contacted by the Associated Press. "I've already made the only comments I'm going to make," he said.

Keasler, 55, a state district judge in Dallas since 1981, won the Republican appeals court nomination in a runoff April 14 to challenge incumbent Judge Charles F. "Charlie" Baird, a Democrat, in the November general election.

"The Court of Criminal Appeals is no place for Keasler to show his comedy act," McBride said.

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for their contributions in fostering the progress of black people and rebuilding New Jersey's urban communities.

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MAY 7, 1998 • NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

SPECIAL HONOREES

Hillary Clinton to deliver Howard University's commencement address



WASHINGTON—United States First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered the commencement address at Howard University's 150th Commencement Convocation, Saturday, May 9.

The commencement will mark Mrs. Clinton's third official visit to Howard University in the last year. In June 1997, she delivered the commencement address for Howard University's education partner, Bancker High School. Also in June 1997, the diplomatic community convened at the University where Mrs. Clinton presented a slide show on her tour of the African continent.

Howard University's 1998 graduating class includes more than 2,000 students, bring the total alumni population to more than 85,000. Notable Howard University alumni include: the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Nobel Laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winner Toni Morrison, former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young, "Anistat" Producer Debbie Allen, Attorney and Civil Rights Leader Vernon Jordan, Alliance Capital Management International Chairman Frank Savage and "Cosby" Star Phylicia Rashad.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

UNION—The Union County Economic Development Corporation presents "Business Opportunities with DOD," 9 a.m. to noon at the East Campus. For cost and more information, call 908-527-1166.

JERSEY CITY—The Dept. of Continuing Education of Hudson County Community College offers "Business Communications" from 6:30 to 10 p.m. 201-714-2107.

TUESDAY, MAY 18

EAST BRUNSWICK—The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce hosts The Annual New Jersey Small Business Awards Luncheon at the Brunswick Hilton Hotel. For more info, call 609-899-7888.

TUESDAY, MAY 19

NEW BRUNSWICK—The U.S. Small Business Administration, NJ District Office and the NJ Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring "Clearing the Air" Conference for Small Business at the Brunswick Hilton 609-899-7888.

NEW YORK—Professional Women in Construction holds its annual "Salute to Women's Achievement" luncheon at 11:30 a.m. For more information, call 212-687-0610.

EAST BRUNSWICK—New Jersey Conference for Small Business features workshops on market research, marketing and managing money at the Brunswick Hilton from 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info, call 609-899-7888.

WHITE PLAINS, NY—Professional Women in Construction and New York Power Authority will hold a business breakfast for women and their allied industries to "Meet The Construction Chiefs" at the Power Authority Jaguar Room. For more info, call 212-687-0610.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

SOUTH CAROLINA—The 1996 National Association of Market Developers Conference will be held at Adams Mark Hotel in Columbia. For reservations, call 1-800-444-2226.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

NEW YORK—A Marketing and Business Expo will be held at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers. For more info, call 212-582-2334.

Are you hosting a business event? Let N.J.'s foremost minority business community know about it. Send your Business Calendar events to: CN Business Calendar P.O. Box 1774 Plainfield, NJ 07060 Or FAX to: 908-753-1036

Celebrities purchase Founders National Bank

LOS ANGELES, Cal. — Marvin "Magic" Johnson, recording artist Janet Jackson, and music industry ingenue Jheri Busby have acquired the majority interest in So. Central and E. Los Angeles' Founders National Bank. The close to three million dollar investment was secured in March, signifying Johnson's, Jackson's, and Busby's commitment to continuing Founders' legacy as the only African American owned and operated commercial bank in California.

As majority shareholders, Johnson, Jackson, and Busby have formed the JJB Partnership. As the general partner, Jheri Busby will continue to serve on Founders' Board and will closely work with Founders Chairman, President and CEO, Carion Jenkins, in shaping the bank's future strategy. Founders operates five branch locations throughout the So. Los Angeles community, including: Lynwood; Compton; on Crenshaw (at Stocker); on Western (at 47th); and USC-Arroyo. The revolving loan fund from JJB's acquisition will enable Founders to increase and expand its consumer and business lending within



Janet Jackson of the Los Angeles community.

"We're extremely pleased to be part of Founders National Bank," said Johnson, Jackson, and Busby in a joint statement. "We look forward to carrying on the bank's strong and admirable heritage and continuing to best serve the people of Los Angeles. The JJB partnership will maintain an open-door policy with Founders and the community, and will be actively involved in a myriad

of civic, charitable and corporate affairs benefiting area residents." "So. Central and East Los Angeles produce many fine and respected professionals; athletes, musicians, artists, businessmen and more," said Jenkins. "When those people return to the city to 'give back' in the way that Earvin Johnson, Janet Jackson and Jheri Busby have in their involvement with Founders, that's when our city, as a whole, moves forward."

"Since Jheri Busby's board appointment more than a year ago, Jheri has greatly contributed to the advancement and direction of Founders National Bank," said Leon Garr, Founders Chairman Emeritus. "I feel our future is in good hands."

Jenkins will continue his important and long-standing position at Founders, while Jenkins' grandfather, Founders' former controlling shareholder and Chairman Emeritus, Leon Garr, elected to sell the majority of his interest in the bank. After investing only one million dollars to purchase the Founders institution in 1990, Garr along with Jenkins and a team of outside investors, grew



Magic Johnson of the Los Angeles-based African-American institution to five branch offices with collective assets in excess of \$100 million.

Founded in 1991, Founders National Bank is the only African American owned commercial bank in California, and one of the most significant in the U.S.

SBA Initiative provides capital for NJ Black business owners

NEWARK — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) New Jersey District Office, and the 100 Black Men of New Jersey joined forces recently to promote access to capital for New Jersey Black business owners through SBA's loan and counseling programs.

In making the announcement, Francisco A. Marro, SBA's New Jersey district director said, "This partnership means that many more African-American-owned businesses will be able to learn about and take advantage of SBA's programs, service and financial assistance."

According to Marro, the agreement between the two organizations calls for a series of educational programs to be held for African-American businesses throughout the state and the establishment of a registry of African-American bankers that are willing to review loans under the SBA Loan Guaranty.

"Specifically, the partnership aims to significantly increase SBA loans to African-American businesses in New Jersey and will also serve to educate the African-American business community on the many programs and services that the SBA and New Jersey banks offer entrepreneurs who wish to start, build and grow successful businesses," said Marro.

In a recent press conference, the organizations kicked off a six-month, multi-county series of workshops entitled, "New Jersey's African-American Businesses in the 21st Century." The seminars will feature sessions on small business issues and opportunities, including technical assistance and accessing capital. The SBA's African-American outreach initiative is one part of a broader effort to reach under-served business communities. A similar program is underway with the Hispanic-American community, said Marro.

Matching your investments to your goals

WESTFIELD—Although there are a variety of specific investment objectives, they usually fit into three broad categories: safety, growth or income. The investing decision you make is critical. The criteria is that there is little or no risk of losing part of your dollars you invest. Growth refers to appreciation in an investment's value. As its "price" goes up, you can sell it for more than you paid. However, it's important to remember that the investor's goal is usually needed to achieve investment growth. Income investments, on the other hand, offer regular payments that are expected period of time beginning soon after you make the investment.

It is very likely that your investment

goals fall into at least one or two of these camps. If, for example, you are saving for a young child's college education or building a nest egg for your retirement, you are probably most interested in growth investments. You may even be willing to take on more risk to achieve your goal if you have a long enough time horizon.

However, if you are retired or about to be, and will be depending on the income your portfolio generates to supplement your pension or social security, your primary investment objective will be income with safety a close second.

Probably the most important key to successful investing is to make certain that your financial goal

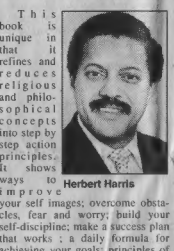
matches up with the objective of your chosen investment. This may be a more difficult task for some than others. If you put together a portfolio pieced over the years, without any overall strategy, you may have collected a hodgepodge of mutual funds, individual stocks and bonds or annuities that don't meet your specific needs as well as they should. Too often people purchase the "hot" investment of the moment, are sold unsolicited over the telephone or try to help friends out by buying an investment they are promoting. Thus their portfolios could easily hold too many growth investments when what they really need is income vehicles.

On the other hand, you may like some investors, take the line of least

resistance and simply place all your money into the most convenient and secure vehicle you can find - without any regard to why you are saving. More often than not, this instrument will be money market funds or certificates of deposits (CDs) that are continually rolled over into new ones as they mature. What you may really be looking for is long-term growth for goals 10 to 15 years away but instead have investments that are set up to generate current income. You would be much better served if you shifted at least part of your assets into growth-type investments, like stocks or stock mutual funds. Then your portfolio would match more closely with your investment goal as well as produce better results.

Twelve universal laws of success

OHIO—The Twelve Universal Laws of Success by Herbert Harris is a well-organized treatment of the basic principles of personal success. The author has organized the broad spectrum of self-help approaches into twelve universal laws. These laws are extended showing their biblical foundations, often with metaphysical interpretations. Some of these laws are: The Law of Thought - "For as they think in (their) heart, so are (they)" (Proverbs 23:7); The Law of Change - "And not contented with this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (Romans 12:12); The Law of Action - "For the doers of the word, and not the hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22).



Herbert Harris

wealth building; improving your relationships; overcoming procrastination; how to be persistent and get results. "Herbert's Twelve Affirmations To Live by:" I have a positive self image. I believe in myself. I define my purpose and reason for living. I think positively with under-

standing and faith that I can realize my purpose. I constantly visualize my purpose, seeing it clearly in my mind. I always focus on the positive. I have confidence and courage to be inner-directed. I have control of my mind, my body, my instincts, and my emotions. I always do it now. I have a plan for my success. I persist in my efforts with unshakable faith in my own ability. I execute my plan and produce desired results.

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Strategies for success

NEW YORK—Whenever people think about Robert Kelley's list of expertise, they always want the 30-second sound-bite answer to ten years of research. "So, what's the big secret?" they ask. "What really makes some people stars in their jobs?"

Kelley, who consults for major corporations and teaches at Carnegie Mellon University, has found that most people have their own ideas about success. Surely, the most productive white-collar workers are the ones with the highest IQ or the most self-confidence...or the smoothest social skills. But surprisingly, none of these answers is true as Kelley and his colleagues have proven through ten years of productivity research and training, at organizations like AT&T, 3M, and Hewlett-Packard.

As Kelley explains in How To Be A Star At Work (Times Books), being a star performer has little to do with your intelligence, creativity, sociability, or ambition. Once you understand the minimum set of qualities needed for a particular job, there's no correlation between how smart or creative or social you are and how successful you are. What distinguishes stars are the strategies they use to do their own work and to work effectively with others - strategies that allow them to double their productivity while working less. The fact that stars are made, not born, is great news for anyone looking to boost his or her productivity, which translates directly into better jobs, higher salaries, and a wider range of career opportunities.

Through his consulting practice and through the "Breakthrough" training program he helped customers for Development Dimensions International, Kelley has helped hundreds of workers. He notes that his strategies have proven particularly valuable to women and minorities, "who tend not to have as many chances to learn these strategies from on-the-job mentors. Members of these groups have seen their productivity improvement rates soar as much as 400% after being taught more effective work habits."

How To Be A Star At Work teaches readers how to improve their day-to-day behavior by using Kelley's nine breakthrough strategies:

* Initiative—"It's not about finding little ways to do your job better, or volunteering to do little extras like planning the annual picnic. Star performers know that real initiative means going beyond your regular work to come up with new ideas that really help the company's bottom line faster and better."

* Networking—"Average performers think it means socializing with the boss in hopes of getting a promotion. Star performers know it's really about building good relationships with the knowledge gurus who can help you get your work done faster and better."

* Self-Management—"Don't get hung up on whether your desk is neat or cluttered—that has nothing to do with success. The key is whether you're sticking to the 'critical path' when you organize your time, work space, and goals."

* Perspective—"Average workers see everything from their own point of view, but stars learn to consider the perspectives of their colleagues, bosses, customers, and competitors."

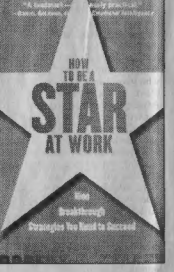
* Followship—"You don't have to be a spineless yes-person to be a good follower. There are smart ways to influence what happens while still checking your ego at the door."

* Leadership—"Don't get blinded by the cult-hero worship of 'Big L' leaders; instead, learn the secrets of influencing people through 'Small L' leadership."

* Teamwork—"Everyone talks

about teams, but stars know how to avoid the pitfalls that often derail team efforts."

* Organizational savvy—"Office politics" has gotten a bad name.



Stars know that developing "street credibility" with the right people can help them address conflicts and promote their own ideas. "Show-and-tell—people judge you by what you say and do during meetings and presentations. Stars always know their audience and shape their message accordingly." In today's hyper-competitive business world, workers who can prove their value to the bottom line enjoy a tremendous advantage. How To Be A Star At Work shows you step-by-step how to do it.

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Religion Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

PLAINFIELD—Calvary Baptist Church will hold a "Holy Ghost Revival" through May 15th featuring area ministers. 908-757-9572.

MONTCLAIR—Renown preacher and scholar Dr. Jeremiah Wright returns to NJ to be the featured revivalist at the annual Spring Convocation services of the St. Paul Baptist Church. 973-746-8538.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

MAPLEWOOD—Summit College presents "Spring Eternal," spring selections from Ott's "Carmina Burana" at 8 p.m. 973-762-5486.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

NEWARK—Bethany Baptist Church presents Bethune-Cookman College Choir sponsored by the Black College Committee at 4 p.m. at Bethany Baptist Church. 973-733-9307.

SUMMIT—The Concord Singers of Summit join with Dance Innovations of Chatham to present a Spring Concert of new dimensions at 4 p.m. in St. John's Lutheran Church. 908-464-7038, ext. 5879.

TUESDAY, JULY 14

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Off-

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Jeremiah Wright returns to St. Paul

MONTCLAIR—Renown preacher and scholar Dr. Jeremiah Wright returns to New Jersey May 11-15, to be the featured revivalist at the annual Spring Convocation services of the St. Paul Baptist Church in Montclair, New Jersey.

Marking his third visit to St. Paul, Dr. Wright is the pastor of the 6,000 member Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, the largest and fastest-growing church in the United Church of Christ. A graduate of Howard University (AB and MA), the University of Chicago Divinity School (MA) and the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio (D.M.D.), Dr. Wright has shared his gifts of teaching at many institutions of higher learning and has lectured on many topics including The Black Religious Tradition, Black Theology, and The Black Religion.

Traditions & Urban Spirituality.

The recipient of numerous awards and honors, this dynamic pastor and preacher is also a gifted songwriter and the author of several books and publications. Among the varied titles he has penned are: What Makes You So Strong? Africans Who Shaped Our Faith, Good News, Sermons of Hope for the Family, and When Black Men Stand Up for God. Known throughout the country and abroad as one of the greatest gospel preachers of our era, Dr. Wright has also co-rentored two doctoral programs at United Theological Seminary.

Joining Dr. Wright will be the dynamic and prophetic Dr. John Kinney, Dean of the School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, who will be the bible study leader for the church's Christian

Education Institute, also to be held May 11-15. A native of Wheeling, West Virginia, Dr. Kinney received graduate and undergraduate degrees from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia and Virginia Union University School of Theology in Richmond, Virginia. In 1979, he was awarded his Ph.D. from Columbia University/Union.

Dr. Kinney has devoted himself to the pursuit of excellence in theological training and preparation and has distinguished himself as a systematic theologian, academician, and administrator in a career that spans some twenty years. His commitment to the needs of the community at large is apparent by his varied activities, membership in professional societies and organizations, and involvement with other community ser-

vices. As consultant to the American Baptist Convention, the Progressive National Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Virginia, and both the United States Navy and Army Chaplain Corps, Dr. Kinney is nationally and internationally known not only as a prolific scholar, but also as a gifted preacher.

In addition to the aforementioned preachers, St. Paul will also its annual Eugene Parker Concert Series as part of the Spring Convocation event. Appearing on May 17 will be the renowned Wooten Choir Ensemble of Chicago, Illinois. Celebrating their 45th anniversary, this dominant ensemble has remained a fixture in the city of Chicago and throughout the nation as one of this country's best singing ensembles.

On May 24, closing out this year's Spring Convocation will be a special benefit concert featuring the Trinity Baptist Church Mass Choir from Yorba, California. An exciting and talented

group of young people, this concert event is guaranteed to be a blessing to every one who attends. Adapt at both traditional and contemporary styles, the choir will be performing selections from their new CD.

All Spring Convocation events are open to the public and seating is on a first come, first served basis. Nightly, the start time for the week-long Christian Education Institute bible study is 7 p.m. with revival services beginning promptly at 8 p.m. The time for the May 17 and May 24 gospel concerts is 5 p.m. Please note the May 24th benefit concert is a ticketed event and all tickets are priced at \$25. All proceeds from this event will go to the scholarship fund of St. Paul's Youth Education Advisory Council (YEAC).

St. Paul Baptist Church is located at 119 Elm Street in Montclair, New Jersey. Rev. Dr. V. DuWayne Battle is the pastor. For directions and additional information, please call 973-746-8538.

Managing stress

By Junious Stanton

The popular buzzword of our times is stress. Stress is defined as a state of strain whether physical or psychological — a response to change. It is said to be the root cause of most illness, disease and premature deaths in this country. More Black men die from heart attacks associated with stress than any other ethnic group in the United States. Stress has been associated with such diverse ailments as hypertension, allergies, ulcers, muscular aches and pains, overeating, anxiety depression, poor memory, elevated cholesterol and stroke, just to mention a few. Most people who visit a primary care physician are there for stress-related symptoms.

We should understand that stress is inevitable. It is a part of living. We all experience or manifest some type of stress daily in our lives. The only people with no stress are in the cemetery. That's the bad news. The good news is all stress is not harmful or debilitating. In fact stress is good for us, we need it to assist us in living and fighting our way in life. All this may seem strange, but it is true. There are two kinds of stress, the good kind called eustress and the bad kind called distress. Being able to differentiate between the two, I must point out that the determining factor

about whether you experience eustress or distress depends entirely upon you!

Stress is not predicated upon what happens to you or your experiences; rather it is a direct outgrowth of your perceptions, beliefs and responses to what happens. Two people can go through the same situation and respond in totally different ways. That's the good news about life and living. The way we color our world determines the type of stress we will experience, whether it is stressful or distressful. Eustress, the good kind of stress is the feeling of being prepared, in control ready for whatever comes your way. It's like when you study for a test and when you open the test booklet you know all the answers. That's mental eustress. Physical eustress is when you are in the zone, when you are clicking on all cylinders. The golf ball rockets off the tee landing close to the hole; the basket appears three feet wide and you can't miss, and as a batter you see the rotation and movement of the baseball and it looks as big as a medicine ball. That's eustress. Eustress is when you feel so confident you believe that no matter what happens you will do well, even during the worst case scenario. Eustress is health-enhancing when you feel so confident you believe that no matter what happens you are poised, expecting and anticipating things to work out for the best.

Distress is the opposite psychological and emotional state. You feel overwhelmed, inadequate, unprepared and powerless. You are full of worry, anxiety and fear. Your fears weigh you down, sap your energy and you expect the worst and feel powerless to prevent the inevitable disaster. You are inconsolable, even by friends and associates who know you are capable of success. You have mesmerized yourself by thinking about doom and gloom. Your body responds appropriately. Over long periods of time distress contributes to illness and physical and emotional breakdown. The constant triggering of the fight/flight physiological response within our bodies causes chronic disease, hypertension (elevated blood pressure), anxiety, tension or sleep disorders, just to mention a few.

You don't have to suffer the adverse effects of distress. The key is to learn how to manage your stress. Since stress is an indispensable part of living, the sooner we learn to effectively (eustressfully) manage stress the better our lives will become.

You have the power to control your responses to whatever happens to you or whatever is going on in your life. You have the power to choose how you will respond in every situation. When you think about it, isn't that the way it should be?

An attitude of gratitude

By Junious Stanton

Have you ever been around people who whine constantly? They never have anything constructive or optimistic to say. All they do is complain and moan about their lives? Do you find yourself chiming in, griping about whatever the topic of the day is, joining the chorus of naysaying and negativity? Without sounding too Pollyannish, instead of complaining about your life, start counting your blessings. Use your energy constructively by being thankful for both the "good" and the "bad" you've experienced.

We need to cultivate an attitude of gratitude. According to the Dictionary of Psychology, an attitude "is a relatively stable and enduring predisposition to behave or react in a certain way towards persons, objects, institutions or issues; tendencies to respond to people, institutions or events either positively or negatively." The definition continues, "the source of attitudes are cultural, familial and personal."

Despite the fact that many of our ideas, values and attitudes are shaped or passed on to us by others (relatives, social and cultural institutions etc.) we have the power and ability to formulate our own. Even if you grew up in an atmosphere or environment that was pessimistic, cynical or hostile, you have the power and ability to change. You can be different! You can form your own ideas about the world, yourself and how to relate to it in a healthy

and constructive fashion. You can cultivate a predisposition towards optimism and being appreciative for life and all the experiences that come your way. Why should I be thankful for the pain, trauma and problems in my life, you ask? Because pain is a signal that something is amiss; It alerts you to disharmony and imbalance in your life, personal relationships and affairs. The pain is a signal to do something differently to change your life. Be thankful for it!

Instead of being bitter, upset or discouraged, count your blessings. Look for the empowering and ennobling potential inherent in each situation. Give thanks that there is a bright side. Cultivate a predisposition to being optimistic, hopeful and grateful for the good things in your life. And if things aren't going the way you think they should, make up your mind to do everything in your power to actualize your dreams. Give thanks that you have a dream to pursue and goals to strive for. If you don't currently have a consuming dream or goal(s) for your life, formulate some and cultivate an attitude of gratitude for all the experiences that will come your way. Remember life is an ever-changing growth process. Growth and change are the law of life.

Be thankful you are in the divine flow, no matter how the situation appears to you now. Remember things aren't always what they seem. That's something else we all should be thankful for.

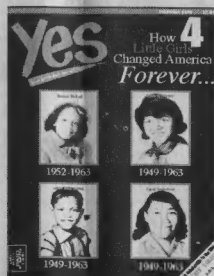
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May 13-May 19, 1998

Health Calendar

SUNDAY, MAY 14

TEANECK—Holy Name Hospital will host a regional patient education seminar on diseases of the thyroid gland in conjunction with the American Thyroid Association. The seminar will start at 7:30 p.m. in Marfan Hall. For more information, call 201-471-2692.

BELLE MEAD—Carrer Foundation in Belle Mead is hosting a community program, "Stress & Humor" which will be held from 6:45 to 9 p.m. 908-281-1517.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

BELLEVIEW—Clara Maass Center to hold community health and safety fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the campus of the Medical Center. 1-800-CLARA-MAASS.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Arthritis Foundation's NJ Chapter is sponsoring a conference at 8:30 a.m. in conjunction with the Community Education Dept. at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital for those affected by arthritis in the hospital's courtyard. 1-888-467-3112.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The first annual patient and family conference on "Managing the Pain of Arthritis - 50 Years of Knowledge" will be held at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital from 9 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. 732-416-8110.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

BELMAR—Gather at The Taylor Pavilion at Fifth and Ocean in Belmar to walk along the Boardwalk and around the Belmar lakes. Registration begins in the Pavilion at 10 p.m. Get your registration form from The Center. For more information on the Walkathon, call The Center 732-774-3416.

WATCHUNG—The American Red Cross Plainfield Area Chapter is holding a blood drive from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Mary's of Stony Hill. 908-756-6414.

JERSEY CITY—Greenview Hospital will offer a Health Fair on site at the Hospital from 1 to 4 p.m. 201-547-6100.

MONDAY, MAY 18

PLAINFIELD—The American Red Cross Plainfield Area Chapter is holding a blood drive from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. 908-756-6414.

Forum for teenage mothers at Beth Israel

NEWARK—Approximately one million women over 20 years of age give birth each year in the United States. This statistic is higher than any other country. Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, recognizes that in order to lower this statistic, issues need to be addressed such as education and abstinence. More than 90 area residents attended a recent seminar entitled "The Life of a Teenage Girl" at Beth Israel Center, which focused on these issues.

Doctors' Kenneth Kapp, Ann Marie Campbell, and Varamana Bhatia addressed issues and answered questions on various birth control options, the importance of completing their education and the significance of maintaining a drug-free lifestyle. "Fertility is a responsibility," said Dr. Campbell, associate director of obstetrics and gynecology at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. "If you are pregnant or have a child, you can still

attend school. You may not be able to join a gym and you may tire easily, but the important thing to remember is that your baby needs someone to rely on and you need an education to achieve this."

An example of this determination is Candice Corbit, a 17-year-old who had a child at 17. Ms. Corbit explained, "It hasn't been easy, but whatever you put your mind to you can accomplish." She is currently in her junior year at Rutgers University and received an abundance of help from her family and by educating herself about the options that are available for teen mothers.

The uplifting seminar focused on the positive aspect of having a child. Young mothers need to be encouraged and recognize that their life is not over, it is just beginning. The importance of recognizing the resources that are available through the community and the importance of education are the keys to success.



Alma Beatty, at center, assistant vice president of community relations, answers questions of teen mothers at the seminar "The Life of a Teenage Girl" held at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

For more information about community resources for teen mothers please contact the Community

Relations Department at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, 973-926-7478.

Urban Women's Health Workshop

The Urban Women's Center (UWC) of the YWCA of Plainfield/North Plainfield has scheduled its annual "Health Workshop" on Tuesday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the YWCA, 232 East Front Street, Plainfield.

"We are trying to provide a forum for women to discuss health issues that affect their quality of life," says Mildred Leverett, director of the Urban Women's Center. "A woman's health can be either an asset or a detriment to her ability to succeed in a career or to manage her family effectively."

The topics for the "Health Workshop" are:

"Physical Fitness: The Key to a Healthy Lifestyle," presented by Ms. Tonka Irish, Union County College, Cranford Campus, Fitness Center.

"Diet and Nutrition for Today's Living," presented by Ms. Michele Clark, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County.

"Strategies for Managing Stress," presented by Ms. Sheila Hall, Urban Women's Center.

The workshop is open to the public and refreshments will be served. To register call 908-756-3500.

For further information about this workshop and other YWCA programs and services, contact Nicole Davis, director of public relations at 908-756-3836.

Greenville's 100th year of community service

Jersey City—Were you born at the Greenview Hospital? Do you have historical artifacts that tell of hospitals, universities of community service? Were you or someone you know a member of the medical staff or a hospital employee, or a graduate of its school of nursing?

If you fit any of these categories, a newly appointed committee tasked with coordinating the hospital's 100th anniversary wants to talk to you.

Founded as the German Hospital in 1898 but changed to its current name in 1917 after the sinking of the Lusitania, Greenview Hospital will officiate its 100th anniversary on December 5, 1998 when a cornerstone ceremony will be held.

While the year-end event is planned, an entire year of events will be coordinated to highlight the hospital's pivotal role in the community and its historical significance.

The calendar of events will include all those currently associated with the hospital as well as in its past. These groups will include former patients, employees, board members, and physicians.

"Greenview Hospital has been at the center of its community from the day of its inception," said Willie Flood, Chairperson of the hospital's Board of Trustees.

A major task of a newly appointed committee will be to obtain historic artifacts, photographs and documents that may be of significance to the hospital's history. Sheldene members of the community like to donate or loan such items to the hospital for consideration, please call Office of Administration at 201-547-6106.

Patients and nurses join forces against Privatization at UMDNJ

Renal Dialysis patients were joined recently by their caregivers and local community leaders at a new conference called to ask the Newark City Council to stop the privatization of the Renal Dialysis Unit at University Hospital.

Patients learned last week of plans by the hospital to lease the unit to a for-profit company - National Medical Care, owned by Fresenius USA, Inc. NMC and its subsidiary, NMDA, operate free-standing renal dialysis clinics as a for-profit company.

"This lease will remove the access we now have to a qualified team of health professionals providing comprehensive services, and exchange it for an outpatient, for-profit clinic," said Joyce Allison, a resident of Newark and a patient of the hospital-based renal dialysis unit since 1995.

Her comments were echoed by her registered nurse, Molly Varghese. "We take care of extremely ill patients, some with rare complicating diseases," said Ms. Varghese.

Consumers appeal HMO decisions on healthcare

TRENTON—Consumers in HMOs have filed 46 appeals in the year since they were given the right to contest denial of care decisions to an independent panel of medical care professionals, Health and Senior Services Commissioner Len Fishman said in recent testimony before the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

As one of the first states to give consumers appeal rights to make their case outside the HMO to an independent panel, And HMOs know there is zero tolerance if they fail to tell their members how to appeal a decision," he added. The Commissioner has the authority to fine HMOs for such violations.

The department has taken many steps to promote consumer awareness. HMOs were required to mail members information about the consumer bill of rights, including a description of the appeals process. Also, every written denial of covered services to a member must also include information on how to appeal. Filing an external appeal

costs a consumer \$25 (reduced to \$2 for financial hardship).

The department continues to inform the state's 2.3 million HMO consumers about the appeals process through the state's first HMO report card and puts the complete consumer bill of rights on its website, www.state.nj.us/health. In addition to monitoring the appeals process, the department responded to 476 written complaints and questions about HMOs in 1997 and more than 1500 calls through its hotline, 1-888-393-1062.

Since March 1997, consumers or providers (such as doctors or hospitals) acting on their behalf have filed 46 appeals. Under HMO rules, those appeals were filed only after attempts to resolve the matter within the HMO proved unsuccessful. Of the 46 appeals filed, the independent review panels made decisions so far in 36 cases. In 23 of those cases, panels supported HMOs or reversed or modified.

NJ heroin deaths, arrests on the rise

NEWARK—(AP) Heroin overdose deaths and heroin use are on the rise in New Jersey, even in its most rural counties, state officials say. "Every county throughout the state is reporting a big increase in the problems they're having with heroin," said Capt. Jeffrey Greeczy, chairman of the County Narcotics Commanders' Association of New Jersey.

The problems include overdose deaths including in Morris County in the past five weeks, and two apparent heroin overdose deaths of inmates at Southern State Correctional Facility in Cumberland County.

Fatal overdoses involving heroin increased from 1996 to 1997 in at least seven counties — Morris, Passaic, Essex, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Somerset. The Star-Ledger of Newark reported.

Heroin is also bringing more people into hospital emergency rooms for rehabilitation facilities, the newspaper reported. Heroin sent 5,500 more people

to hospitals in Essex, Morris, Somerset, Sussex and Union counties in 1996 than two years earlier, an increase of 22 percent. And at Daytop Village, a rehab facility in Vineland, 66 percent of the 70 youths are heroin addicts, compared with only 5 percent four years ago.

Young people are more susceptible to heroin because it is now being snifflered, rather than injected, Greeczy said.

"Kids aren't afraid to try a drug if they're just going to snort it," he said. "It comes at a bad time because the purity level is so high." The more potent heroin on the street is likely responsible for the emergency room visits and some deaths, he said.

At an April 24 association meeting in Edison, representatives from the state's 21 counties all reported increases in arrests or seizures of heroin.

From 1996 to 1997, in Middlesex County, Greeczy saw a 25 percent increase in the amount of heroin seized and a 33 percent increase in arrests.

Urban League Lead poisoning prevention effort launched

MONMOUTH COUNTY—The Monmouth County Health Department, and the Monmouth County Urban League, have launched a collaborative effort to fight lead poisoning, a threat to the health of the children and youth of our communities.

According to Michael A. Meddis, Assistant Public Health Coordinator of the Monmouth County Health Department, the goal of the project is to reduce the incidence of lead poisoning in the targeted communities of Absecon Park, Long Branch, Neptune, Red Bank, Keanburg and Freehold Borough.

Undetected lead poisoning can lead to learning disabilities, behavior

problems and permanent brain damage. The most common sources of lead are old paint and lead contaminated dust and soil. A blood test is the only way to find if a child has too much lead," Meddis said.

This initiative, which is funded through a grant from the State Department of Human Services, Office for Prevention of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, will focus on Public Education utilizing the full range of communication and media opportunities. Cable Television, radio, newspapers, flyers, posters, transportation advertisements, and public appearances will all play a part in the war on lead poisoning for our children.

It's never too late to start a fitness program

SAN DIEGO—You've heard it all your life: Exercise is good for you. But it's too late to start. You're afraid of injury and failure, feel limited by chronic disease and conditions, and have misconceptions about what type of exercise is appropriate. Besides, you've finally reached your "golden years" and really don't see any point in worrying about physical fitness—right?

Wrong. The American Council on Exercise (ACE), a non-profit fitness advocacy organization, says it's never too late to reap the benefits of a regular

exercise program—even if you have never exercised a day in your life.

May 27, National Senior Health & Fitness Day, is a great time for seniors to start enjoying healthier, active lifestyles, and ACE is here to help them get started.

"Active seniors will improve their quality of life, reduce their risk of chronic disease, increase mobility and independence," said Gwen Hyatt, an ACE spokesperson specializing in senior fitness. "There may be some limitations, but they should be able to participate in moderate exercise," she said.

The abilities of people with mental retardation

PLAINFIELD—The month of March is being recognized throughout New Jersey and the United States as Mental Retardation Awareness Month. "The emphasis should be on the abilities of people with mental retardation, not their disabilities," says Frank Caragher, Executive Director of The Arc of Union County. The Arc (formerly the Association for Retarded Citizens) is a non-profit organization that provides services and support to almost 800 children and adults in Union County who have developmental disabilities.

The agency operates early intervention programs in two schools, supervises four adult work centers, manages fourteen group homes and runs specialized day programs for adults with multiple disabilities. It also provides recreational and clinical services and support groups for

family members. The Arc's Supported Employment Program, which matches qualified employees with appropriate employers in the community, currently has 25 individuals working in competitive jobs in 15 local corporations. Robert Erickson, General Manager of Challenger, a manufacturer of garage door openers, has been more than happy with his employees from The Arc. "It's just amazing how many things they can do and how quickly they can do them," he says.

Through The Arc's programs individuals can learn job skills, adapt to community living and become more independent. If you would like additional information about The Arc of Union County or about services for people with developmental disabilities, please contact the agency at 908-754-5910.

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The Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park invites applicants (individuals or firms) to submit their qualifications for consideration in providing the PHA with Architectural/Engineering services. Items include boiler replacement, domestic hot water, some piping replacement, all controls and valves in boiler room replaced, new wiring and electric 2 needed, boiler room floor raised and platform installed, new dual station pump system installed, complete repair of ceiling, prime and paint entire boiler room and replacement of some individual valves, traps and radiators in some apartments. Applicants must provide services necessary to prepare plans and specifications for the design, bidding and implementation of the 1999 CDBG GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG). Interested applicants may obtain a request for proposal (RFP) at the Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park, 1000 N. Avenue, Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712. RFPs are available between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday May 11th thru June 26th 1998. All proposals must be submitted by June 8, 1998 by 12:00 noon.

INVITATION TO BID

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Housing Authority of Plainfield is requesting architectural services for the roofing work for Richmond Towers, 519 and 520 East Front Street, and Elmwood Gardens, 509 blocks of West Second Street, Plainfield, New Jersey.

The scope of the services include but are not limited to the following:

- Prepare plans and specifications for the roofing work
- Prepare cost analysis for the project
- Attend pre-bid and pre-construction meetings
- Monitor construction progress and approve contractor's requisition payments
- Answer all correspondence and concerns relative to the project
- Prepare written reports for construction and job meeting minutes
- Provide as-built drawing
- Prepare all relative documents regarding for the close-out of the project.

The proposer must possess comprehensive liability insurance, valid professional license, and at least three years of experience for similar work in the State of New Jersey. The proposal must also include a breakdown cost in the lump-sum professional fee for the project in the proposal.

The job meeting which is mandatory will be held on Wednesday, May 13, at 10:00 a.m. at Richmond Towers, 519 East Front Street, Plainfield, New Jersey.

The proposal is due on May 21, 1998 before 4 p.m.

All proposals are required to comply with the requirements of PL 1975 C 127 - Affirmative Action P. L. 1977.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD

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To write and edit a 4-page, monthly National Teacher's Guide. At least two years of teaching experience necessary, preferably grades 6 and up.

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PROOFREADER

Proofreaders are invited to submit your resume to Jan Johnson at City News, P.O. Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07061. Experience is required.

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Full-time students with a 2.5 G.P.A. and excellent communications skills who are interested in developing work experience send your resume to: City News, Attn: Jan Johnson, P.O. Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07061 or fax your resume to 908-753-1306. You will have the opportunity to learn hands-on experience in Microsoft Word, Adobe Photoshop, Act 3.5, QuarkXPress, scanning, faxing, scanning, filing, sorting, making phone calls.

FREELANCE WRITERS

Freelance writers are needed to cover newsworthy material. Experience required. Must have your own transportation.

Send your resume to:

City News
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P.O. Box 191
Plainfield, NJ 07061

Local Briefs

Day care on our mind

PLAINFIELD—When I Grow Up, a focus on early childhood development is the theme for a conference set for Wednesday, May 20 at the BU/Health & Human Services Complex in Plainfield.

The conference has been organized to provide an information network link between state agencies, private services, community and the day care centers themselves in a relaxed and creative environment. "Janes, Sandra Clark, Director of The Complex's community center and resident day care facility, "Child care providers and day care professionals from Union, Middlesex, Essex and Somerset Counties are invited to attend."

The registration fee for "When I Grow Up" is \$25. Interested individuals, child care providers and day care professionals may contact BU/Health and Human Services Complex at 908-561-0123 for additional information and directions.

Cable companies must notify customers when rates drop

TRENTON—The Policy and Regulatory Oversight Committee today approved legislation that would require cable television companies to notify all subscribers in its service area of rate reductions or refunds ordered by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) or the Federal Communication Commission (FCC).

The measure (A-1692) is sponsored by Associate Minority Willfredo Caraballo (D-Essex) and Assembly Deputy Minority Leader John Wisniewski (D-Middlesex), each of whom represent districts where one cable company provides service to several towns.

"If the FCC orders a rate reduction, it does so because the rate is excessive. Why aren't all consumers within the service area entitled to a rollback?" remarked Caraballo (D-Essex). If a person in a town successfully lobbies to bring down cable rates for that town, the cable service provider is not bound to lower rates for the other towns in its service area. This bill ensures that if one town receives a rate reduction, subscribers in other towns serviced by that company will also be notified."

Home buyers sessions conclude session

PLAINFIELD—"Opportunity Knocked," Plainfield's program for first-time home buyers, concludes its Spring series of evening informational sessions for buyers with a session set for Thursday, May 14, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Jefferson School, 1200 W. Myrtle Avenue, Plainfield. The program is designed to be helpful to those who may be considering buying a home but are not sure what they need to do or how to get started.

Among the questions attendees will answer for are: How do you apply for a mortgage? How do you work with real estate firms? Is an attorney needed when buying a home? How do I know if I can afford to buy a home?

For more information, call 753-3377.

Tour to visit many city landmarks

NEWARK—A bus and walking tour of historic places and landmarks of the early 1700s will be offered Sunday, May 17, by the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee.

The tour will climax Newark's observance of Historic Preservation Week, and open the 25th anniversary celebration of the founding of the landmarks committee, a private organization.

The event will be on "Newark Day," May 17 was long considered the date on which Newark's first settlers from Connecticut arrived in May 1666.

The cost of the tour is \$10 for members of the landmarks committee, and \$15 for all others, and may be paid at boarding. Seating is limited. Advance reservations can be made by mail to Landmarks Committee, P.O. Box 1066, Newark, N.J. 07101, or by telephone to 973-622-4910.

Doby receives doctorate from JCSU

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College presented an honorary doctorate of humane letters degrees to baseball great Larry Doby, who as the first African-American player in the American League helped bring about racial desegregation in this country.

Doby, who will be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame on July 26, is a six-time All-Star with two home-run titles. He joined the Cleveland Indians on July 5, 1947, just 11 weeks after the legendary Jackie Robinson was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers as the first African-American to play in the major leagues. Indians' owner Bill Veech recruited Mr. Doby from the Negro League's Newark Eagles.

Plainfield track team wins big all over

PLAINFIELD—The 4x400 team of Sean White, Jason Edwards, Kishwayne Virgo, and junior, Safar Wells, placed second at the Indoor Boys National Scholastic Track and Field Championship and became the first New Jersey school to place five individuals on the First Team All-America squad.

The same unit also won the Eastern States Championship in Feb. 1998, and have the fourth fastest time in New Jersey State history 1:29.74.

When the Plainfield teams moved to the outdoor season they continued their winning ways with the 4 x 400 and Sprint Medley relay team featuring the same group, with one addition, wrestling champion Aaron Morton came on board to add even more strength to the team. Morton, a junior was a part of the 4 x 100 team who won the Highland Park relay in the top time in the state of 41.79 and a third fastest in history. However, he injured his right knee in a fall during that race, and was side lined for the Penn Relays.

Thus, the unit of Edwards, a senior; Virgo, a senior; White, a senior; and Davis, a sophomore, went on to the Penn Relays, qualified for the Championship of America, placed 5th overall, and was the first American team to finish in that particular race. Their time in that 4 x 100, 41.61



From left to right: Track stars Jason Edwards, Sean White, Anthony Davis and Kishwayne Virgo.

ranks them fourth in New Jersey history. The Plainfield team's 4 x 400 also

qualified for the Championship of America race, a feat not accomplished since 1980 by any high school team in the history of the Penn Relays. The team of Edwards, Safar Wells, White, and Virgo finished sixth overall.



Manisha Stewart, Shanisha Evans and Tiffany Stevens (l-r) don medieval attire from the "Merlin" Village at NBC Headquarters during a visit for "Take Our Daughters to Work Day." Lucent Technologies sponsored the trip for the three members of the Plainfield High School Able Mentoring program.

Young women get 'Merlin' magic at 'work'

Plainfield youth celebrate 'Take Our Daughters to work Day'

PLAINFIELD—A group of young women Plainfield traveled back in time recently for a sojourn to the Medieval Village constructed at NBC Headquarters to herald the world premiere of the mini-series, "Merlin." The young women were guests of Lucent Technologies to celebrate "Take Our Daughters to Work Day."

The village was transformed into a world of sorcery and magic complete with costumed performers that included five eaters and magicians.

Lucent Technologies was co-sponsor of the Medieval Village, which also

featured the MERLIN LEGEND Advanced Solutions communications system for small businesses. In conjunction with the trip, Lucent donated MERLIN LEGEND systems to the Plainfield Village and the Rolling Hills Girl Scout Council in North Branch.

Participating in the full day's events were Briana Billup, Shanisha Jackson, members of the Plainfield YWCA Tech Group and Manisha Stewart, Tiffany Stevens and Shanisha Evans members of the Plainfield High School Able Mentoring program.

Funding for college bound programs

TRENTON—The New Jersey Commission on Higher Education today awarded grants to 15 New Jersey colleges and universities for pre-college enrichment programs that help at-risk urban students to complete high school and pursue college-level study in the sciences, mathematics, and technology.

The \$2.9 million College Bound Grant Program, established in 1986, provides on-campus support services, academic classes, and other activities for urban students in grades 6 through 12. The 15 grants to institutions in each sector of New Jersey's higher education system will enable nearly 2,000 students from the original 30 urban school districts designated as "special needs" to participate in on-campus enrichment programs during the summer and the regular academic year.

"I am extremely pleased that this competitive grant process enabled the Commission on Higher Education to fund five new campus programs and expand College Bound's presence through New Jersey," said Alfred C. chairman of the Commission. "With these 15 grants, the College Bound program will continue to help historically underrepresented students finish high school and go on to college."

Suspect in house burglaries arrested

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Police have announced that on May 1, a suspect was identified and arrested in a series of burglaries to occupied homes occurring in Plainfield during the past two weeks. Arrested and charged with second degree robbery and second degree burglary is Alexander Branch, Jr., 40, whose known address was 1129 Victory Avenue, Plainfield.

Currently, Branch is only charged in one of the incidents that occurred on April 22 in the 1100 block of Prospect Avenue, Plainfield.

Branch was taken into custody by members of the Criminal Investigation Bureau and is currently being held in the Plainfield City Jail on \$100,000 cash bail.

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Denzel puts family first

Continued from page one

Washington is quick to give credit to his actress wife, whom he met in 1977 on the set of "Wilma," the television movie about track star Wilma Rudolph, in which Pearson had a minor role.

"My wife does the majority of the work. She has these kids rooted in a strong spiritual base. They say their prayers. They say grace before every meal."

Although Washington is one of Hollywood's most sought-after actors, it doesn't seem to have hit him yet.

"I never got into it to be a movie star," says Washington, who cut his usual acting life in half to do the role of Dr. Chandler television's "St. Elsewhere." Films like "Glory," "Philadelphia" and "The Pelican Brief" followed.

"I thought I might make \$500 one day on Broadway," says Washington, who will collaborate with

"Glory" director Edward Zwick to play an FBI agent in a next film.

He says his successes don't have to change his life or standards. While often labeled as sexy, he manages to avoid gratuitous male scenes.

"Do you have to take all your clothes off to be sexy?" Washington asks. "You had huge sex symbols in the '30s, '40s, '50s and they never took their clothes off."

Asked whether he has struggled more than other actors or if Hollywood's attitude toward color has changed since he started acting, he is hesitant to answer.

"I don't concern myself so much with that," Washington said. "I look at whether we are at a good place in this world. Are we taking care of this place? I'm much more concerned with kinds of questions than the industry I happen to be in."